

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1 - 56 is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, the cross reference to related application has been amended to indicate that the parent application is a 371 of a PCT application and the claims under rejection have been amended in a manner which should place such claims in allowable form, as will be discussed below. Further new claims 80 and 81, dependent upon allowed claim 42, have been presented and applicants submit that these newly added claims should also be considered allowable at this time.

As to the rejection of claims 57 - 77 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto et al (US 5,900,878) in view of Schwartz (US 5,720,291) and the rejection of claims 78- 79 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Macovski (US 4,577,152), such rejections are traversed insofar as they are applicable to the present claims and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning first to claim 57, by the present amendment, claim 57 has been amended from independent form to dependent form so as to be dependent upon allowed claim 1. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 57, as amended incorporates all of the features of allowed claim 1 therein, which the Examiner has recognized patentably distinguish over the cited art, while reciting additional features, and claim 57 should be considered allowable with parent claim 1 at this time. Claims 58 - 63 which depend from claim 57 and which recite further features should also now be in condition for allowance with claims 1 and 57. Further, by the present amendment, claim 64 has been amended to recite a computer-readable recording medium recording thereon a program for executing a method, which method is the

method as recited in allowed claim 1 in its entirety, while further reciting additional features of the present invention. Since the Examiner has recognized that the method features of claim 1 are not disclosed or taught in the cited art, applicants submit that claim 64, as amended which records a program for executing the method of claim 1 as well as other method steps necessarily patentably distinguishes over the cited art and should be considered allowable thereover. Dependent claims 65 - 70, which depend from claim 64, have been amended to recite a computer-readable recording medium while reciting additional features and should be considered allowable together with parent claim 64. Thus, applicants submit that claims 64 - 70 should also be considered allowable at this time. As is apparent, a discussion of the cited art is considered unnecessary.

As to claim 71, by the present amendment, such claim has been amended from independent form into dependent form so as to be dependent upon allowed claim 42, and applicants submit that claim 71, as amended, should be considered in condition for allowance together with its allowed parent claim 42. Additionally, claims 72 - 77 which depend from claim 71 should also be considered allowable with the allowed claim 42 from which such claims indirectly depend. Accordingly, discussion of the cited art with respect to the amended claims is considered unnecessary.

As to claims 78 and 79, such claims have been amended from independent form to dependent form so as to be dependent upon allowed claim 1, while reciting additional features. Thus, claims 78 - 79 should be considered allowable with allowed parent claim 1. Again discussion of the cited art in relation to such claims is considered unnecessary.

As to newly added dependent claims 80 and 81, such new dependent claims depend from allowed claim 42, and recite additional features such that these claims should be considered allowable together with allowed parent claim 42.

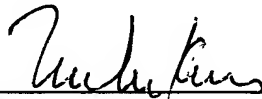
In view of the amendments and remarks, applicants submit that in addition to allowed claims 1 - 56, claims 57 - 82, as now presented in this application either depend from an allowed claim or recite the features of an allowed claim therein such that these claims should also be considered allowable at this time.

Since all claims present in this application should now be in condition for allowance, issuance of an action of favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.37075CX1), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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